

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, 8, and 27-36 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-14, 16-21, 24-26, 36-41, and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukano (JP 63-141750) in view of Nagashima (U.S. Pat. No. 4,625,220). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 11-14, 16-21, 24-26, 33-41, and 43 are cancelled, without prejudice. The rejection of these claims, therefore, is moot.

With respect to claim 8, this claim has been amended to include the limitations of claim 10. Claim 10 was indicated as allowable. Because claim 8 now includes the limitations of claim 10, claim 8 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 36 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 41 and 42. Claim 42 was indicated as allowable. Because claim 36 now includes the limitations of claim 42, claim 36 is in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant acknowledges, with thanks, the allowance of claims 27-35. The Examiner also states that claims 7, 10, 15, 22, 23, and 42 would be allowable if rewritten in

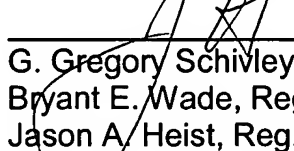
independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 8 to include the limitations of claim 10, and has amended claim 36 to include the limitations of claims 41 and 42. Therefore, claims 8 and 36 should now be in condition for allowance. Claims 7, 15, 22, and 23 are cancelled without prejudice.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 6, 2006

By: 
G. Gregory Schivley, Reg. No. 27,382
Bryant E. Wade, Reg. No. 40,344
Jason A. Heist, Reg. No. 51,797

HARNES, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

GGs/BEW/JAH